

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00

OMB-01 L-03 AF-08 ARA-06 /101 W

-----290356Z 012627 /61

R 281856Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TURNER AND KLAUS  
SAHLGREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN CENTER ON TRANS-  
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR MET INFORMALLY ON MARCH 25 WITH KLAUS  
SAHLGREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN CENTER ON TRANS-  
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, ON THE OCCASION OF SAHLGREN'S  
TALK BEFORE THE ICC-UN GATT ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE.

2. SAHLGREN REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS  
IN UN WITH RESPECT TO THE DRAFTING OF A CODE OF CONDUCT  
FOR TNC'S. GENERALLY, THE G-77 APPROACH NOW IS FAR MORE  
CONSTRUCTIVE THAN IN THE RECENT PAST, WITH LESS  
POLEMICS. SAHLGREN BELIEVES IT MAY ULTIMATELY BE  
POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE SOME TYPE OF LINKAGE, EVEN IF  
INDIRECT, BETWEEN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TNC'S AND OF  
GOVERNMENTS, AS LONG AS THE LANGUAGE USED IS NOT TOO  
OFFENSIVE TO THE G-77 IN TERMS OF SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE  
(ESPECIALLY TO THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES). SAHLGREN  
ALSO INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED A GOOD DEAL OF THE UN  
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TNC CODE TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR  
MNE'S.

3. SAHLGREN'S VIEWS AS TO POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE UN TNC CODE CENTERED ON THE CREATION OF A "PANEL  
SYSTEM" (A LA GATT), WHERE A PANEL OF INDEPENDENT  
EXPERTS WOULD ISSUE "MORAL FINDINGS" ON OFFENDING

TNC'S BROUGHT BEFORE SUCH A PANEL. WHILE THESE FINDINGS WOULD NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING, SPECIFIC SANCTIONS COULD INCLUDE A "BLACKLIST" OF OFFENDING TNC'S, THUS PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING AND CHASTISING NAMED COMPANIES.

4. SAHLGREN SAID HE EXPECTED INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP COMMENCING APRIL 18, AND A REQUEST FROM THAT GROUP AT THE CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS TO UN SECRETARIAT TO DRAFT AN ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CODE. SAHLGREN NOTED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT KEY PERSONNEL ON U.S. DELEGATION HAD CHANGED SO OFTEN, AND HE HOPED FOR INCREASED CONTINUITY OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FUTURE.

5. WHILE HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE ABOUT THE ULTIMATE RESULTS OF THE UN TNC EXERCISE, SAHLGREN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PROCESS ITSELF WILL HELP TO "DEMYSTIFY" TNC'S.

6. COPY OF SAHLGREN'S SPEECH HERE WILL BE GIVEN TO RICHARD J. SMITH (EB/IFD/OIA), IN PARIS FOR CIME MEETING MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, FOR INTERESTED PARTIES.  
TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** EINV, US, OECD, (SAHLGREN, KLAUS), (TURNER, WILLIAM C)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009